

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An unsolicited e-mail internet protocol source address verification method comprising:

receiving a request for authorization to forward an electronic mail message;

responding to said request for authorization to forward said electronic mail message; and

handling receipt of said electronic mail message, including verifying a source address included in the received electronic message against an address the authorization indicator is sent to.

2. (Original) An unsolicited e-mail internet protocol source address verification method of Claim 1 wherein said request is initiated by a source of said electronic mail message and said request asks a simple mail transfer protocol agent for authorization to send an electronic mail message to a destination serviced by said simple mail transfer protocol agent.

3. (Original) An unsolicited e-mail internet protocol source address verification method of Claim 1 wherein responding to said request includes an authorization indicator.

4. (Currently Amended) An unsolicited e-mail internet protocol source address verification method of Claim 3 ~~4~~ wherein said authorization indicator is sent to a source address identified in said request.

5. (Original) An unsolicited e-mail internet protocol source address verification method of Claim 1 further comprising performing an indication generator process in which an authorization indicator is generated.

6. (Original) An unsolicited e-mail internet protocol source address verification method of Claim 5 wherein said authorization indicator is a unique bit string.

7. (Original) An unsolicited e-mail internet protocol source address verification method of Claim 1 further comprising tracking said source address.

8. (Currently Amended) An unsolicited e-mail internet protocol source address verification method of Claim 1 further comprising inserting an entry into said electronic mail message indicating ~~said~~ an address ~~said~~ an authorization indicator is sent to before forwarding said electronic mail message to an end use destination.

9. (Original) An unsolicited e-mail internet protocol source address verification method of Claim 1 further comprising:

extracting a request source address from said request; and

utilizing said request source address as a destination address in a header file of a return package including authorization indicator information.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor for processing information and instructions, including instructions for verifying and tracking a source sources of an unsolicited electronic message messages; and

a memory for storing information and instructions, including instructions for verifying and tracking said source sources of said unsolicited electronic message messages and verifying an address of said source included in said unsolicited electronic message against an address an authorization indicator is sent to, said memory coupled to said processor.

12. (Original) A computer system of claim 11 wherein said instructions direct determination of electronic message authorization.

13. (Original) A computer system of claim 11 wherein said instructions include:

formulating a request for permission to forward an electronic message including a permission request source address;

analyzing said request for permission;

sending a permission reply to said permission request source address;
forwarding an electronic message, including said permission indicator in a header; and
tracking said permission request source address and a source address of said electronic message when received.

14. (Original) A computer system of claim 13 wherein a message initiator inserts an indication in a header of a communication packet that said initiator is attempting to establish a communication link for a purpose of forwarding a message to a particular destination, said header also includes an indication of an initiator or source address.

15. (Original) A computer system of claim 13 wherein said permission reply includes a permission indicator.

16. (Original) A computer system of claim 15 wherein a time stamp is maintained of when said permission indicator is generated.

17. (Currently Amended) An unsolicited electronic message source tracking method comprising:

obtaining a verification indication; and

forwarding an unsolicited electronic message with said verification indication

from an address said verification indication was sent to.

18. (Original) An unsolicited electronic message source tracking method of Claim 17 further comprising transmitting a request to send said unsolicited electronic message, wherein said request includes a request sender's identification.

19. (Currently Amended) An unsolicited electronic message source tracking method of Claim 18 ~~19~~ wherein said request is transmitted to a simple mail transfer protocol agent and said simple mail transfer protocol agent forwards a verification indicator to a request sender's source address.

20. (Original) An unsolicited electronic message source tracking method of Claim 19 said verification indicator is a unique bit string.